

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PDI, SL

SUBJECT:PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS: AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS

REF; A) FREETOWN 2180; B) FREETOWN 2072

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF REMARKS TO BE GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR LINEHAN AT HIS CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION CEREMONY. BEGIN TEXT: YOUR EXCELLENCY, I HAVE THE GREAT HONOR AND PRIVILEGE TO PRESENT TO YOU THE LETTER BY WHICH PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER HAS ACCREDITED ME AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE, ALONG WITH THE LETTER OF RECALL OF MY DISTINGUISHED PREDECESSOR, AMBASSADOR MICHAEL A. SAMUELS. I TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN CONVEYING PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES FOR YOUR GOOD HEALTH AND SUCCESS AND FOR THE PROSPERITY OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE UNDER YOUR CONTINUED LEADERSHIP.

I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SERVING EXTENSIVELY IN WEST UNCLASSIFIED

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AFRICA DURING MY CAREER AS AN AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER. IT IS A PERSONAL PLEASURE FOR ME TO RETURN TO WEST AFRICA AND ESPECIALLY TO HAVE THE HONOR TO SERVE AS UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO SIERRA LEONE. AS MY FAMILIARITY AND

KNOWLEDGE OF AFRICA AND ITS HISTORY HAVE GROWN I HAVE BECOME DEEPLY IMPRESSED BY THE UNIQUE AND LEADING ROLE SIERRA

LEONE,ITS INSTITUTIONS AND PEOPLE HISTORICALLY HAVE PLAYED IN THE PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT OF WEST AFRICA. RESPECT FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL PEOPLE, RECOGNITION OF MUTUAL INTER-DEPENDENCE AND A WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE ON MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THE LONG STANDING AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS THAT HAVE EXISTED BETWEEN OUR GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES OVER MANY YEARS. BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND SIERRA LEONE WERE FOUNDED UPON A CONCERN FOR HUMAN LIBERTIES. SHARING THIS COMMON FOUNDATION, IT IS NATURAL AND JUST THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD WORK TOGETHER TO FURTHER THE CAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIGNITY THROUGHOUT AFRICA AND THE WORLD.

I LOOK FORWARD TO THE CONTINUED COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS IN WORKING FOR THE COMPLETE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND FREEDOM OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA AND TO DEVELOPING THE FULL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL POTENTIAL OF THE PEOPLE OF SIERRA LEONE. LAST YEAR, IN RESPONSE TO THE WISHES OF YOUR GOVERNMENT, A BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THROUGH THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT WAS RESUMED AFTER AN EIGHT YEAR HIATUS. I HOPE THIS PROGRAM WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF SIERRA LEONE.

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ACTIVITIES OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS
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WORKING IN THE VITAL AREAS OF HEALTH, ROADS, WATER SUPPLY, EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE, THE EXTENSIVE ACTIVITIES OF CARE AND CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES, AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH MY COUNTRY IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR,A US BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WILL PROVIDE A POWERFUL STIMULUS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SIERRA LEONE'S HUMAN AND NATURAL RESOURCE RICHES. OUR CONCERN FOR SIERRA LEONE'S DEVELOPMENT WAS MOST RECENTLY EXEMPLIFIED BY THE EXTENSION OF FOOD ASSISTANCE. THE SUCCESS OF A US DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO SIERRA LEONE WILL BE BOUNDED ONLY BY OUR MUTUAL RESOURCEFULNESS AND IMAGINATION. I HOPE TO SEE THE FURTHER FRUITS OF OUR JOINT EFFORTS DURING THE PERIOD OF MY STAY HERE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, I ENTER UPON MY NEW DUTIES WITH ENTHUSIASM AND ANTICIPATION. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE WARM HOSPITALITY FOR WHICH YOUR PEOPLE ARE RENOWNED. I ASSURE YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY, THAT WITH THE HELP AND SUPPORT OF MY WIFE AND THE STAFF OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY, I WILL DEVOTE MY ENERGY TO STRENGTHENING THE GOOD RELATIONS THAT HAPPILY EXIST BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA AND SIERRA LEONE.

YOUR EXCELLENCY, MY WIFE AND I ARE DELIGHTED TO BE HERE
AND TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK IN CLOSE AND FRIENDLY
ASSOCIATION WITH YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT.

THANK YOU. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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